



City of Seattle

Gregory J. Nickels, Mayor

Seattle Women's Commission

2004 Work Plan

The SWC 2004 work plan committees mirror the top issues facing women in Seattle as defined by the attendees of the Seattle Women's Summit. While there is not a specific committee focus on the issue of institutional racism, the SWC is committed to addressing the issue as a critical component of each of the committees. Beyond the specific work items outlined below, the SWC will continue to monitor and respond to issues that come to its attention and take action as appropriate.

The SWC is also committed to regularly quarterly updates to the City Council, Mayor's Office, and the SOCR Commissions.

Violence Against Women Committee

- Survey Summit attendees (domestic violence session) to get clarity re accountability expectations stated as missing component of existing legislation, policies and programs. Prepare advisory statement if appropriate.
- Ensure that violence against women/domestic violence is a priority of the city.
- Assemble a panel of community leaders (including sports figures) to speak out publicly against violence against women.
- Support the commission's membership in the King County Domestic Violence Coalition.
- Review the audit of the City's domestic violence prevention services and make recommendations.

Economic Empowerment Committee

CHILDCARE

- City Employee Benefits - research current childcare benefits offered to city employees and recommend changes if appropriate.
- Monitor State Legislation - monitor and respond to legislation that impacts childcare availability.
- Website – Provide childcare resources on the SWC website.

TAXATION

- Tax Reform - continue to endorse the Washington Tax Fairness Coalition and support their work as appropriate.
- EITC (Earned Income Tax Credit) - research and support the efforts of the United Way of King County to communicate the availability of the EITC (Earned Income Tax Credit) and programs they offer for free tax preparation.
- Website – Provide tax resources on the SWC website.

BUSINESS SUPPORT

- City Policy - research city policy/benefits/regulations on women-owned businesses with an emphasis on micro business regulations and multi-language support.

- Investigate impact of I-200 on city contracts/women owned businesses
- Website - Research organizations and city/state resources for women and minority business owners and add these resources to the website.

CIVIC PARTICIPATION

- Partnerships - support and partner with local organizations on civic participation and/or voter registration efforts in low-income and minority neighborhoods.
- Website – provide access to information resources, and an activism tool kit, on the website.

HOMELESSNESS

- Research – city policy, resources
- Investigate support opportunities (city, other organizations)
- Make resources available via the website.

Health

STUDENT BASED HEALTH CENTERS

- Privacy – Monitor the city’s plan to use student insurance for school-based clinic visits to make sure it is implemented in a way that protects the privacy and confidentiality of those visits.
- Funding – Review funding (Families and Education Levy) for school-based clinics and advocate that it will continue, and that funding and access to these services are not cut.

COMMUNITY-BASED HEALTH CLINICS

- Sustained funding – evaluate the community health clinic budget for funding cuts and recommend that no cuts be made for programs that are critical to preventative care for women with consideration to overall budget tradeoffs and needs.
- Adequate services for women – research if clinics provide adequate services for women’s health needs, and if not, explore how to insure that future clinic services funded through Seattle do cover those services.
- Access to information – understand if low income Seattle women know about the services available.

City Employee Health Care Plan

- The committee is interested in reviewing the city health care plan to make sure the needs of women employees are adequately met, including preventative care and reproductive health care.

Centralized access and publicity of Existing City Health Services

- Research the model Help for Working Families, a one-stop service delivery program model. Explore whether this model may be appropriate to broaden or work within or advocate for/support to expand access to health services.

Workforce Committee

Research and Educate

- Research existing programs, policies and budgets in city departments that influence the areas of workforce transitions faced by women, specifically school-to-work, home-to-work, involuntary separation, and retirement. Identify program managers and provide information from the Summit and other support where appropriate.
- Provide information and resources via the SWC website.

Policy and Legislation

- Track progress and budget actions, provide information and recommendation as necessary.

Nominating Committee

The SWC nominating committee exists to assist in recruiting and vetting council, mayoral, Get Engaged, and commission appointed commissioners. The SWC is committed to a diverse commission that represents the women of Seattle.

PR Committee

The PR committee's goal is to identify opportunities to promote the work of the SWC to the women of Seattle that highlights our efforts to educate, advocate for and inform City officials on issues important to women. Public awareness of our work and promotion of our issues will lend credibility to our efforts and inform women in the community about resources available to them.

Tactics will include building press relationships, press releases and op ed pieces, tabling opportunities, events, email/action alerts, updating the website, developing a marketing hand-out piece about the SWC – and continuing to build our relationship with like-minded organizations in Seattle.